

**AGENDA ITEM V D**

**PROGRESS REPORT ON CONDITIONALLY APPROVED PROGRAM**

**NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY**

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ADDICTION STUDIES**

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##### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

On January 22, 2004, the Board of Regents took the following action:

**Approval is granted for the proposed Bachelor of Science in Addiction Studies program (CIP 51.1501) at Northwestern State University, effective immediately, with the stipulation that the University shall submit an implementation report to the Commissioner of Higher Education by August 1, 2005, which documents appropriate faculty workload distribution and coordination with other public degree programs in substance abuse counseling.**

In December 2005, the Board of Regents accepted the first Progress Report Relative to the Implementation of the B.S. in Addiction Studies at Northwestern State University (NWSU) and determined that a subsequent report addressing continuing staff concerns about the program should be due in June 2006. A report was received in June; in July, the staff received additional information.

##### **STAFF ANALYSIS**

The following issues are relevant for reporting purpose.

#### **1. Faculty Resources**

Two full-time faculty with expertise in the area of addictions are assigned to the Addiction Studies (Ad St) program, but their teaching responsibilities are equally shared between the Ad St and other programs in Psychology. An additional FTE faculty member is needed by this fall to offer upper-level courses to students who will be juniors or seniors in the program.

The NWSU administration has approved the hiring of an additional tenure-track assistant professor for Fall 2006 who will be assigned entirely to the program and will have a graduate assistant assigned to him or her. While the position was advertised and a few applications were received, there has been no hire to date. An offer was made to an acceptable candidate who unexpectedly declined the offer only recently. The University decided not pursue additional prospects so near the beginning of the semester.

A course rotation schedule for the next four years was provided by the institution. The new faculty was not scheduled to teach until the semester commencing January 2007. NWSU

indicates that several prospects who will be completing their degree work this fall have expressed an interest in the position at NWSU beginning in January. The institution will actively pursue these candidates and intends to hire an additional faculty for the spring semester.

NWSU provided the numbers of majors in the Department of Psychology as shown below:

Substance Abuse	24
Prevention Specialist	7
Addiction Studies	8
Grad-Subs Abuse	3
Grad-Prevention Spec	3

The possibilities of utilizing faculty from ULM and SU-S as adjunct instructors at NWSU have been explored. The degree of one appropriate faculty at SU-S is in social work, so her resume has been forwarded to the appropriate department at NWSU. Faculty from ULM are very interested in teaching on-line courses for the Northwestern's program. An on-line course could be offered to graduate students in ULM's program and undergraduate students in NWSU's programs by faculty from either or both institutions by having more rigorous requirements for the graduate students.

## **2. Articulation/Cooperative Arrangements**

Northwestern indicates that it has met with representatives of the A.S. in Human Services program at Southern University at Shreveport (SU-S) and the M.A. in Substance Abuse Counseling program at the University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM) to establish articulation and cooperative agreements; the process has been initiated with Bossier Parish Community College (BPCC).

A two-plus-two approach is being established with SU-S, in which students would complete the associate-level program in Human Services with a concentration in Substance Abuse Counseling at SU-S, then complete the last two years at NWSU for a Bachelor of Science in Addiction Studies. Students and the coordinator of the program at SU-S have visited the NWSU campus and Department of Psychology and met with representatives of the Addiction Studies program. The institution indicates that SU-S considers the proposed agreement beneficial to its students; arrangements are to be finalized before the upcoming fall semester.

Faculty from the M.A. program at ULM have indicated an intention to make annual visits to NWSU to visit with the upper-level students in the Addiction Studies program to discuss continuation of their studies at the graduate-level. Under consideration is the possibility of identifying six hours of advanced credit (4000-level) in which students would be awarded graduate credit toward the program at ULM for completing additional rigorous projects.

Initial contact with BPCC suggests interest in establishment of a two-plus-two plan between the institutions; however, arrangements are still in preliminary stages.

## **STAFF SUMMARY**

Current faculty remain insufficient to support a necessary expansion of offerings per semester to sustain student progress. The University provided plans for resolving this concern, but an additional progress report will be needed to ascertain whether an adequate number of full-time faculty is present to staff courses and grow the program.

The University has made some limited progress toward Regents requirements for articulation agreements/cooperative arrangements with similar and related programs at other state colleges and universities. It would appear that, besides being good policy, arrangements maximizing electronic learning capacities and the use of adjunct faculty could be a partial solution to faculty resource concerns. Upper-level undergraduate and graduate-level students could be combined into one course with different requirements appropriate to the student populations only when graduate faculty teaching the course appreciate the differences in learning approaches appropriate to undergraduate versus graduate students.

While only a small number of students have declared Addiction Studies as a major, this is not unusual for an emerging program. This number will have to increase to justify expanded course offerings. Accordingly, the University is encouraged to enhance program promotion efforts.

## ***STAFF RECOMMENDATION***

***The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee receive the AY 2005-2006 Progress Report from Northwestern State University Relative to Implementation of the B.S. Program in Addiction Studies. A subsequent progress report, addressing specific concerns in the staff summary, shall be sent to the Commissioner of Higher Education by December 1, 2006.***